

Pete Kadens Biography

Pete Kadens is a serial entrepreneur and dedicated philanthropist who currently serves as the Chairman of The Kadens Family Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to closing the pervasive wealth and education gaps in the U.S.

Pete was a co-founder and served as CEO of Green Thumb Industries, currently the second largest cannabis company in the world with a current market capitalization of over \$6 billion. After taking the company public, Pete retired in September 2018. Prior to Green Thumb Industries, in 2008, Pete started one of the largest commercial solar companies in the U.S., SoCore Energy. Under his leadership, SoCore expanded operations into 17 states and was named one of Chicago's most innovative businesses by Chicago Innovation Awards. In 2013, he sold SoCore Energy to Edison International, a Fortune 500 energy holding company.

Pete employed over 5,000 people during his 16 year career as a CEO. Pete and his family are currently the controlling owners of a business called Headbands of Hope, a fashionwear business that leverages the “one for one model” to donate hair accessories to pediatric patients who are ill and impoverished.

Pete believes deeply in, and actively leads, organizations that seek to transform lives and strengthen communities, serving as chairman of StreetWise (2009 – 2018), one of the largest homeless aid organizations in Chicago. Pete currently serves as chairman emeritus at StreetWise and sits on several other boards in the nonprofit and for-profit space.

Pete and his family foundation also spearheaded and financed an effort to ensure that all students, and one of their parents, from the most underserved and impoverished high schools in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, could go to college or trade school for free. That organization, HOPE Toledo, is now serving over 300 families. Pete is also the founder and Chairman of HOPE Chicago, an organization focused on educating underserved Chicagoans.

Pete was awarded the Trailblazer Chicago Award by The Cara Program in 2019, the Catalyst Man of the Year by Streetwise in 2015, the Distinguished Alumnus for Citizenship in 2010 by his college alma mater, Bucknell University, where he earned his bachelor of arts in political science. He is in the Hall of Fame at his high school alma mater, Ottawa Hills High School. Pete was also named one of the 40 Under 40 by *Crain's Chicago Business* in 2012 and one of the 20 People to Watch in the Cannabis Industry by *Marijuana Business Daily* in 2018.

Pete is a 2019 Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, a fellowship that selects only 20 individuals from around the world each year who have the capacity to create ventures that solve one of society's intractable problems.

Pete is married to Amy Robbins Kadens, whom he met growing up in Toledo. Together they have three amazing kids who are being raised to have a strong sense of empathy and a strong will to help others who are less fortunate.